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NOTES FOR SPEAKERS
MAY 1st, 1943

MAY DAY, 1943

AIM OF SPEECH

To explain the meaning of international working-class unity in relation to present events; thus to convince the audience of its responsibility for securing all-out British action against fascism (invasion of Europe and prosecution of pro-fascists at home) and working-class unity (Communist affiliation to Labour).

Speakers should be familiar with Central Committee Manifesto. (Daily Worker. April 24; *World News and Views.* May 1.)

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1. THE MEANING OF MAY DAY

Every First of May workers of all countries (1) review strength and degree of unity of Labour movement, (2) see how far advanced towards goal of world socialism and the abolition of the causes of war. (3) set new tasks for period ahead, by applying lessons of the past to current problems.

2. MAY DAY, 1943

This year working class is fighting and working with all sections of the people opposed to fascism.

The highest point of international solidarity ever reached is in this People's War against fascism. The destruction of fascism is the aim which guides the actions of the workers of all countries, and transcends all barriers of nationality, religion, language or sectional interest.

(To illustrate this point: when French workers go on strike, that helps us; when we turn out more arms, that helps them. Also show how Czech soldiers, fighting for Russian soil, thereby fight for Britain as well as their own country.)

3. THE FASCIST ENEMY HAS BEEN WEAKENED

By united efforts of people of all countries heavy blows have been dealt to fascism:

(a) In Tunisia by combined British, American and French armies; by R.A.F.; by Navy and Merchant seamen.

(b) In Europe workers have learned through bitter experience necessity for unity, whole Continent is an erupting volcano.

(c) In Russia where main battles have been fought. (Last winter enemy came within hair's breadth (" a very thin hair "—Kalinin) of defeat).

4. BUT ENEMY STILL STRONG

Nazis will not collapse by themselves. Every breathing space is used to:

(a) replace man-power by total mobilisation of whole Continent and occupied Russia.

(b) increased number U-boats (building faster than we sink them).

(c) Strengthen coastal fortifications.

(d) extermination working class fighters in Europe.

(e) disrupt the United Nations (refer to alleged Soviet massacre of Polish officers, which was really carried out by Nazis).

(f) weaken unity inside Britain and America.

5. THE TASKS BEFORE THE WORKING CLASS

Therefore we must: (a) strengthen working class unity (which will, in turn, strengthen the country and the part it plays internationally against fascism); (b) prevent the Nazis enjoying any breathing space.

6. GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR BRITISH WORKERS

Only two free Labour movements are left in Europe: the Soviet and the British. All others driven underground or destroyed by fascism. Lesson of past shows that fascism conquered only because working class was not united.

Soviet people are thoroughly united. Hence their all-out effort. British Labour movement not united. Hence slow pace of war, absence all-out fighting on scale required, loopholes for enemies of people to carry on pro-fascist activities, reactionary policy in India.

Only if we learn the lesson of unity in time can we perform our duty. Labour must unite and exert its full strength in Government and country.

7. OPPORTUNITIES MISSED

Workers do not want long war. They want to win the war with smallest suffering and in shortest time.

They were told "leave it to experts," "don't prod the Government." Now Churchill admits necessity of prodding.

("*In approving their schemes and allocations of forces, (i.e., of 'our military advisers and experts') we have asked for more weight to be put into the attacks and more speed into their dates.*") (February 11, 1943.)

For two years Nazis have fought with most of their forces in Russia. But no big blows by Britain in the West. In two winters, Nazis have been near defeat on Eastern front. Each time Britain missed opportunity.

The opportunity now presented must not be missed again. We can gamble once too often on Russia's endurance.

8. SPEED WILL DECIDE

Only the invasion of Europe can finish the war with victory. Sooner or later it must be carried out. If later—a bigger price. If sooner—a speedier victory.

(*Emphasise by quoting Churchill*: "*The greater the weight we can take off Russia, the quicker will the war come to an end*" (February 11, 1943); *and General Sir Hubert Gough, V.C.*: "*In a month or six weeks the battles which may decide the fate of the war, and will most certainly decide its duration, will be fought in Russia. Before they open, it is vitally important that Hitler should not be free to concentrate most of his divisions against our Russian Allies.*") (April 16, 1943.)

We have air supremacy and naval supremacy in the West; we have the men, we have allies ("France is ready to rise."—Andre Philipe); we have the tools (British output per head is said to be highest in world; we can now afford to give Turkey as much equipment as she can take). Now we must finish the job.

We need a united drive by Labour to overcome obstacles and delaying tactics by Hitler's friends in Britain.

9. PRO-FASCISTS AT WORK

This shown by peace negotiations offer by Spain, anti-semitic propaganda, and anti-Soviet propaganda (e.g., Polish Government).

10. THE "PEACE" TRICK

Hess came to get terms with people friendly to fascism and make sure there would be no attack in the West while Nazis opened up in the East. Hess locked up. But Hitler's friends still at large. Many pro-fascists released from internment since Hess' visit.

Now General Jordana offers services of Spain to do a deal with Nazis, Britain and U.S.A. Nazi aim behind this proposal as before: to save themselves from Second Front.

Proposal repudiated by American Government spokesman, Sumner Welles, who repeated Casablanca

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pledge to fight for enemy's "unconditional surrender."

Also by Catholic newspaper "Tablet":

"No possible basis for peace can exist between the Western world and the Germany of Hitler. . . ."

• Negotiations with Nazis now would save them; make fascism triumphant in Europe; bring fascism to Britain (because only fascists would come to terms with Nazis); make certain another war in a few years' time.

The very fact of this proposal being made indicates Hitler's knowledge of powerful friends at work for such negotiations in Britain.

11. THE SPREAD OF RACE-HATRED

Hitler's friends spread anti-semitism in Britain. Aim: to take attention away from the real enemy, fascism, by working up hatred for our best friends.

Dr. Ley, Nazi Labour Minister, said: "We will go on waging war until the Jews have been wiped off the face of the earth." (December, 1942.)

Two million murders and kidnappings are reported, with threat of five million more. (Figures given in Report of Inter-Allied Committee, just published. (H.M. Stationery Office, 3d.)

All this going on a few miles across the English Channel. Fascists in Britain want it to happen here.

Every country which has permitted Jew-hatred to be spread has suffered. Look at Germany and Europe. Countries which give freedom to all peoples make progress.

Jews all over the world are pulling more than their weight against fascism.

(Emphasise with facts: 11½ per cent of the Jewish population in Britain are in armed forces—a higher proportion than that of the general population. By the end of 1941, Jews had been awarded eight D.F.C.s, nine D.F.M.s, four M.Cs, three D.S.C.s, ten M.M.s and many other medals. (Reynolds News, April 25.)

Chief Engineer of Eighth Army was Brigadier Kisch, killed in April in an advanced position while helping sappers to clear minefield. Two other Jews are Generals.

Anti-semitism must be made criminal offence.

12. FREEDOM FOR ALL PEOPLE

Britain's policy in India is not in accordance with the interests of British people. We want to see India independent and free, with its own National Government. This would transform the war in the Pacific by bringing 380 million people in as equal Allies, with all India's resources.

But India's Congress Party leaders have been arrested (the Chief Justice of India has declared that their arrest was illegal). Their illegal arrest by the Government caused widespread disorders, in which hundreds were killed. Congress leaders are forbidden to see other representatives of India's people. (Mr. Jinnah, leader of the Moslem League wishes to see Gandhi, to discuss Hindu-Moslem unity). The Government refuses to reopen discussions.

The chief responsibility for the scandal of the illegal arrests and the refusal to negotiate is Mr. Amery's, in charge of the India Office, a hard-bitten Tory diehard. (His son broadcasts for the Nazis.) Amery must be sacked. Justice must be secured for India.

13. PROSECUTE THE FRIENDS OF FASCISM

Russia cleaned up the Fifth Column before the war started.

In Britain the pro-fascists are more active than ever.

Examples: Duke of Bedford—"The Duke agreed with me that his propaganda is calculated to undermine the war effort." When I reminded him that the pamphlets are sold and recommended by every fifth columnist organisation in the land, he replied, "In times like these one cannot choose one's Allies" (Interview in *Daily Worker,* April 20.)

The British National Party: now changing name after a supporter, Craven, was given life sentence for

communicating with enemy. (Craven a former B.U.F. prominent member.) **Mr. Morrison must take action.**

14. BRITISH WORKERS CAN DO THE JOB

No force can stop British workers once they get going. (E.g., 1931 unemployment benefit cuts prevented; Mosley fascists driven from streets, Government compelled to pass anti-blackshirt law; Moore-Brabazon and Margesson thrown out; great triumph for Production Committees reported by A.E.U.; lifting of ban on the *Daily Worker*).

15. UNITY ESSENTIAL AND URGENT

Disunity robs the working class (majority of nation) of its full power. Lesson of past is that reaction succeeds because workers divided.

Pro-fascists and reactionaries exert pressure on the Government.

Labour must exert its full pressure in the Government and the country against the reactionaries. Can only be done if unity achieved.

16. THE WAY TO UNITY

Some say, "Withdraw Labour from the Government." This is defeatism. We say, "More Labour representatives in the Government, and get rid of reactionaries."

Some say, "End the political truce." By fighting every by-election Labour might get a majority in 50 years. We say. "Make all Parties call selection conferences at which best candidate shall be put forward." This would strengthen unity, and return to Parliament best anti-fascists.

Key question to achieve unity is Communist affiliation to Labour. Communists elected by workers to many positions in unions. Carry out duties in exemplary fashion, strengthening unions, helping workers.

Quote tribute to Communists by Lawther, President, M.F.G.B.: "We have no difficultise with our Communist colleagues. When we negotiate with the Government, the National Council of Labour, or the coalowners, one of those responsible for stating our case is Arthur Horner, a member of the Communist Party.

"It doesn't disrupt us, neither does the work of another Communist, Will Pearson, in Scotland. Why should it, seeing that we are fighting for the same thing?" (*Daily Herald*, April 6, 1943.)

The Communist Party is now over 60,000 strong. It welcomes new members to strengthen the fight for unity and the defeat of fascism.

17. NO BARRIERS

There is only one enemy—fascism.

Citrine tells American workers to unite. Others appeal on radio to European workers to unite more strongly against Hitler. UNITY BEGINS AT HOME.

Labour Executive does not face life and death facts. Drags out red herrings. Ramsay MacDonald made speech calling for expulsion of Communists from Labour Party 19 years ago almost identical with statements issued by Labour Executive today.

Labour Executive expelled Pritt and Cripps: one for defending Russia, the other for advocating unity. MUST LEARN THE LESSONS.

18. WORKERS NEED UNITY

To win the war quickly; to guarantee progress when the war is won; to defend our Labour organisation against attacks from reactionaries; to take the people forward to socialism: unity is essential now.

On this May Day, renew the pledge to create the mightiest United movement Britain has ever known:

For the invasion of Europe. For the fighting unity of the people. For the peoples' right to decide their own destiny. Greetings to the people of all countries. Workers of all lands unite!

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